



10 November 2004



## Living the Warrior Ethos On and Off Duty

1. Bell Sends 26-04 provided information on a tragic car crash that killed one of our Soldiers who was on block leave in CONUS. He had just completed 16 months of duty in Iraq. We recently received a report indicating that the Soldier had alcohol, cocaine, marijuana and oxycodone in his system at the time of his death, and was driving over twice the posted speed limit. This Soldier's irresponsible behavior and disregard for Army standards and values directly contributed to his own death and jeopardized the life of his passenger, who was paralyzed from the waist down by the crash.

2. Our deployed Soldiers face many challenges and dangers while fighting for freedom. During combat, they often feel invincible and have an increased tolerance for risk. When they return to home station, these Soldiers must adjust to the fact that they are no longer in combat and reassess risks accordingly. As leaders we need to define for and ensure that our Soldiers know what constitutes acceptable behavior. Clearly, the Soldier who was killed had not accepted either our Army Values or our Army Ethos as a way of life. I'd like each of you to use the following process to help build awareness of and commitment to our Values and Ethos:

- **Leaders:** I ask you to become even more actively involved in the lives of your Soldiers, both on and off duty. Seek out and identify Soldiers who engage in high-risk activities, and demonstrate your commitment to their welfare by arranging counseling for them when appropriate. The USAREUR Leaders Guide to Post-Reintegration (at <http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/postreintegration/index.htm>) provides resources to help you recognize and help Soldiers, civilians, and family members meet post-reintegration challenges. Continue to conduct "Under the Oak Tree" counseling sessions and make verbal contracts with your Soldiers. Ensure they know what constitutes safe behavior, and that they abide by their contracts.

- **Soldiers:** I ask you to make a personal commitment to uphold Army standards and values at all times—whether you are in combat, at home station, or on R&R leave. Live by our Army Values and uphold our Army Ethos. You are ultimately responsible for your own safety. Look out for your fellow Soldiers and provide assistance in times of need. Remember—professional Soldiers do not take illegal drugs, drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or needlessly place their lives or the lives of others at risk. We must live the Warrior Ethos on and off duty!

**ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!**

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3. Ensure that this message is given the widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on bulletin boards. "No Loss of Life" is our goal. I want every Soldier to read this message and make a personal commitment to uphold the Army's standards and values as we continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.



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General, USA  
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**ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!**